



H.R. 1855 – Madera Water Supply Enhancement Act

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 1855 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative George Radanovich (R-CA) on March 30, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources but was never considered by the Committee.

H.R. 1855 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House of Representatives on October 22, 2007.

**Note – Similar legislation was introduced in the 109th Congress by Representative George Radanovich (H.R. 3897). This legislation passed under suspension of the rules by voice vote on July 10, 2006. The Senate held hearings on the legislation but no further action was taken.*

SUMMARY

H.R. 1855 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to assist the Madera Irrigation District in the design and construction of the Madera Water Supply and Groundwater Enhancement Project. The Madera Irrigation District is in the process of developing this project in an effort to help drought-proof Central California's San Joaquin Valley.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this Act \$22,500,000 or 25 percent of the total cost of the Project, whichever is less.

BACKGROUND

The Madera Irrigation District purchased a 13,648-acre ranch which would be used for the Madera Water Supply and Groundwater Enhancement Project (Project). Under this proposed project, pumping facilities would convey District water to the ranch, where the water would be allowed to percolate and form a “water bank” beneath the ranch. Banked water could be pumped and used locally when the water supply is low, providing a key regional water supply benefit. The Project would help the District in its efforts to conserve and more efficiently use its local and Central Valley Project water supplies.

COST

At the time of publication the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not yet scored this legislation.

STAFF CONTACT

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